



NEWS RELEASE

United States Department of Agriculture
NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE
MONTANA FIELD OFFICE
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Cooperating with the Montana Department of Agriculture



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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CROP PRODUCTION – MAY 2015

MONTANA HIGHLIGHTS

Winter wheat production in Montana, based on conditions as of May 1, 2015, is forecast at 94.30 million bushels, according to the Mountain Regional Field Office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA. This forecast is three percent above last year's production of 91.84 million bushels and 15 percent above the 81.70 million bushel crop produced two years ago. Acreage for harvest, estimated at 2.30 million acres, is 60,000 acres more than a year ago. Average yield is forecast at 41.0 bushels per acre, equal to last year's yield.

As of May 3, Montana's winter wheat crop condition was rated 2 percent very poor, 6 percent poor, 29 percent fair, 39 percent good, and 24 percent excellent, compared with 1 percent very poor, 5 percent poor, 31 percent fair, 46 percent good, and 17 percent excellent last year.

Hay stocks on Montana farms and ranches as of May 1, 2015 totaled 1.30 million tons, up 49 percent from stocks of 875,000 tons on hand last year. Hay production for 2014 was 5.38 million tons, one percent lower than 2013 production. Disappearance from December 1, 2014 to May 1, 2015 is 3.30 million tons, compared with 3.83 million tons the same period a year earlier.

UNITED STATES HIGHLIGHTS

Winter wheat production is forecast at 1.47 billion bushels, up 7 percent from 2014. As of May 1, the United States yield is forecast at 43.5 bushels per acre, up 0.9 bushel from last year. Hard Red Winter production, at 853 million bushels, is up 16 percent from a year ago. Soft Red Winter, at 416 million bushels, is down 9 percent from 2014. White Winter, at 203 million bushels, is up 10 percent from last year. Of the White Winter production, 11.5 million bushels are Hard White and 191 million bushels are Soft White.

All hay stored on United States farms May 1, 2015 totaled 24.5 million tons, up 28 percent from a year ago. Disappearance from December 1, 2014 - May 1, 2015 totaled 67.5 million tons, compared with 70.1 million tons for the same period a year earlier.

For a full copy of the *Crop Production* report please visit www.nass.usda.gov.